

The Woman: Take-Home 10

Session 10: Behold Your Mother

What We Found

We finished the scene: 'Woman, behold, your son!... Behold, your mother! And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home' (John 19:26–27). John places the entrustment immediately before 'all was now finished' (19:28): it belongs to the Cross's completed work, not to its margins.

The thread from Session 2 resolved: Eve was named 'mother of all living' (Genesis 3:20) as death entered; at the Cross, where death is defeated, the Church's tradition sees the New Eve receiving the motherhood that title foreshadowed. The beloved disciple, left unnamed, has long been read as standing for every disciple Jesus loves; what was given to him was given to us in him.

The hard sayings sharpen this rather than undoing it: Jesus relocates blessedness from biology to hearing and keeping God's word (Mark 3:33–35; Luke 11:27–28), and on exactly that criterion Luke presents Mary first and best: 'let it be to me according to your word' (1:38); 'blessed is she who believed' (1:45); pondering the word in her heart (2:19, 51); praying with the Church (Acts 1:14). Mother by nature, mother by discipleship, and, by his dying word, mother of us.

Voices of the Church

VOICE OF THE CHURCH: ORIGEN

Origen teaches, in substance, that no one grasps this Gospel who has not leaned on Jesus' breast and received Mary from Jesus as his own mother also: the beloved disciple's place is offered to every reader.

Commentary on John, Book 1 (paraphrase)

VOICE OF THE CHURCH: ST. AUGUSTINE

"She is clearly the mother of the members of Christ... since she has by her charity joined in bringing about the birth of believers in the Church, who are members of its head."

On Holy Virginit 6, as quoted in CCC 963

VOICE OF THE CHURCH: POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II

St. John Paul II teaches, in substance, that the disciple takes Mary 'into his own,' into the interior space of his life of faith; Marian devotion is the beloved disciple's obedience to a dying command.

Redemptoris Mater 45 (summary)

Live It This Week

- Each day, pray one Hail Mary as the beloved disciple: hear 'Behold, your mother' addressed to you first.
- Do one act of 'taking into your own' for a lonely or grieving person this week.
- If your relationship with a parent is wounded, bring it to the Cross once this week and ask for one next step.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

"Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!"

John 19:26–27 (RSV2CE)

Before next session: Read Genesis 5:21–24 and 2 Kings 2:1–12. Next session, the sealed book opens; do not miss it.

Catechism references: CCC 963; 964; 501; 2679